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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/834,264

Applicant(s)

YAIRI, RAHAV

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13 are subject to examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless-

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McDowell et al. (hereinafter McDowell)(US 6, 438, 583 B1).

Referring to claim 1,

The reference teaches a method of routing electronic mail messages to a user with a server (Fig. 2B which is "Referring to FIG. 2B, the direct e-mail re-route path of the e-mail alias embodiment shown in FIG. 2 is illustrated. col. 8, line 14-15), the method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving at a mail server an electronic mail message having a destination address; (Col. 8, line 17-19, "Thereafter, a sender's computer 32 sends an e-mail message to the recipient addressed to the old ISP 34. ")

(2) receiving from a user at the mail server an identification of a main electronic mail address and at least one alias electronic mail address; (col. 7, line 50-62, "Referring to FIG. 2, the e-mail alias embodiment of the re-route request handler is illustrated. Again, a user registers with the re-route server of the present invention. The re-route server then sends a re-route request to the old ISP. This alternative embodiment re-route request handler functions in a similar fashion as described in FIG. 1 (above), except that when a decrypted request 18 is determined to either require authentication 20, thus resulting in an authenticated user 22 and the determination that the authentication was successful 26, or alternatively, authentication is not required, an alias table is created in the old ISP wherein the recipient's former Internet address is mapped to a new address in the table.")

(3) comparing the destination address to the main and at least one alias electronic mail addresses; and (4) transmitting the electronic mail message to an address determined as a result of the comparing step. (col. 8, line 19-22, "Old ISP 34 reviews its alias table to determine the new e-mail address of the recipient and re-addresses the mail directly to the new ISP 38, which in turn sends it on to the recipient 40 via the Internet 42.")

Referring to claim 2,

The reference teaches the method of claim 1, wherein step (4) comprises: transmitting the electronic mail message to the destination address when the destination address is indicated as a main address; and transmitting the electronic mail message to a main

address when the destination address is indicated as an alias address corresponding to the main address. (col. 8, line 16-22)

Referring to claim 3,

The reference teaches a method of providing an electronic mail service to users, the method comprising the steps of: (1) registering a main electronic mail address for a user; (2) providing at least one alias electronic mail address to the user; and (3) delivering electronic messages addressed to the main address and electronic mail messages addressed to the at least one alias address to a single electronic mail inbox. (col. 7, line 50-62)

Referring to claim 4,

The reference teaches the method of claim 3, further including the step of: (4) allowing the user to manage the at least one alias electronic mail address. (col. 7, line 50-62)

Referring to claim 5,

The reference teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the allowing steps comprises allowing the user to delete alias electronic mail addresses. (col. 13, line 42-50)

Referring to claim 6,

The reference teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the allowing steps comprises allowing the user to add alias electronic mail addresses. (col. 7, line 50-62)

Referring to claim 7,

The reference teaches the method of claim 3, further including the step of providing a record of electronic messages sent by and received by the at least one alias electronic mail address. (col. 8, line 19-22)

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Referring to claim 8,

The reference teaches the method of claim 7, further including the step of displaying electronic messages received by the at least one alias electronic mail address. (col. 8, line 19-22)

Referring to claim 9,

The reference teaches the method of claim 3, further including the step of providing the main electronic mail address to the user. (col. 8, line 19-22)

Referring to claim 10,

The reference teaches an electronic mail server configured to perform the steps of: (1) receiving an electronic mail message having a destination address; (2) comparing the destination address to addresses included in a database of main and alias electronic mail addresses; and (3) transmitting the electronic mail message to an address determined as a result of the comparing step. col. 8, line 14-22)

Referring to claim 11,

The reference teaches the mail server of claim 10, wherein step (3) comprises: transmitting the electronic mail message to the destination address when the destination address is indicated as a main address in the database; and transmitting the electronic mail message to a main address when the destination address is indicated as an alias address corresponding to the main address in the database.(col. 8, line 16-22)

Referring to claim 12,

Claim 12 is a claim to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of: comparing a destination address of an

electronic mail message to addresses included in a database of main and alias electronic mail addresses; and readdressing the electronic mail message to a main address when the destination address is indicated as an alias address corresponding to the main address. (col. 8, line 16-22).

Referring to claim 13,

The reference teaches an electronic mail system comprising: an electronic mail server configured to perform the steps of: (1) receiving an electronic mail message having a destination address; (2) comparing the destination address to addresses included in a database of main and alias electronic mail addresses; and (3) transmitting the electronic mail message to an address determined as a result of the comparing step; and a computer coupled to the electronic mail server and including computer executable instructions that allow a user to send electronic mail messages from more than one electronic mail address with a single user interface.(col. 7, line 50-62, col. 8, line 14-22, Fig. 2B)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp



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